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6/17/98

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100220018-5

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SUBJECT: BARR'S TALKS IN MOSCOW

WEST GERMAN MINISTER BARR, WHO ARRIVED IN MOSCOW ON FEBRUARY 27, DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MAKING MUCH PROGRESS IN HIS TALKS ~~IN MOSCOW~~ WITH SOVIET LEADERS. THE MAIN TOPIC OF CONTENTION IS WEST GERMANY'S PLAN TO OPEN A FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN. THE SOVIETS CLAIM THAT THIS WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF THE 1971 QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN AND ARGUE THAT THE OFFICE MIGHT BE A PRECURSOR OF A VASTLY EXPANDED FEDERAL GERMAN PRESENCE IN THE CITY.

BARR'S INITIAL TALKS WITH BREZHNEV AND FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV WERE FRANK, AND NEITHER SIDE GAVE ANY GROUND. ACCORDING TO THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, BARR RAISED THE PROSPECT THAT BRANDT'S PROJECTED TRIP TO THE USSR COULD BE

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JEOPARDIZED IF THE DISCUSSION OF GUELIN "WAS TO REVEAL TO SOMEONE." THE WEST GERMANS BELIEVE THAT NO REAL PROGRESS CAN BE MADE UNTIL FOREIGN MINISTER GROTTEG RETURNS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. AND THEREFORE GERMANY MAY REMAIN IN RUSSIA UNTIL THEN.

A SUGGESTION BY ONE OF BRENNER'S CLOSE SIDES THAT THE "SOVIET FEDERAL" COULD BE REMOVED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE'S TITEL PROVIDES A HINT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE STILL INTERESTED IN FINDING A FACE-SAVING COMPROMISE.

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